



NEWS RELEASE

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FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL HEIGHTENS ENFORCEMENT THIS WEEKEND

~ Increased enforcement will reduce crashes, save lives ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Highway Patrol will be out in full force during the Independence Day holiday weekend, which begins Friday morning and extends through midnight, July 5. The dates coincide with a statewide traffic enforcement initiative entitled Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), which focuses on violations for speed, failure to buckle up, and Driving Under the Influence. The campaign is part of a national program aimed at reducing the number of traffic crashes on interstate highways during holiday weekends.

“This initiative is part of a series of special enforcement efforts that help ensure the safety and well-being of motorists on Florida’s roadways,” said Colonel John Czernis, FHP director. “Our troopers will take appropriate enforcement action on those drivers who put themselves and others in danger. We want everyone to have a safe traveling experience in our state as they enjoy the holiday weekend.”

All uniformed FHP personnel, including those normally assigned to administrative duties, will patrol interstates and other major roadways during the four-day holiday period. FHP Auxiliary and Reserve troopers will volunteer to augment the Patrol’s forces during the holiday enforcement period, too. The strategy aims to increase the Patrol’s presence throughout Florida in an effort to deter traffic violations and to enhance services to motorists who break down while traveling or who need other assistance.

Driving long distances in the summer heat, especially here in the Sunshine State, can cause a vehicle tire to deteriorate, leading to blowouts and tread separation. That is why FHP would like to remind motorists to check your tires regularly, especially before a long trip. Remember to check tire pressure, including the spare. You should inspect tires for uneven wear patterns on the tread, cracks, foreign objects or other signs of wear or trauma. Remove bits of glass and other foreign objects wedged in the tread and make sure your tire valves have valve caps. Additionally, it is important that you do not overload your vehicle. For more information about maintaining your tires and ensuring they are fit for the trip, visit www.safercar.gov.

The Patrol encourages motorists who experience car trouble on the highway or who otherwise need assistance from the FHP to dial *FHP (*347) from your cell phone. FHP urges motorists to contact FHP or local law enforcement officials to report an impaired, aggressive or dangerous driver. Callers may remain anonymous.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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